

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 /089 W
-----032951 021514Z /53

P R 021355Z DEC 77
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3134

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: GHALANOS COMMENTS ON U.S. VISIT

REF: STATE 284824

1. GOC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
T
COMMITTEE ALEXIS GHALANOS VISITED U.S. IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER ON
PERSONAL BUSINESS AND AS MEMBER OF GROUP OF CYPRIOT POLITICIANS
ASSISTING CYPRUS DELEGATION TO UO DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
ON HIS RETURN TO CYPRUS HE PUBLISHED A REPORT ON HIS OBSERVA-
TIONS OF U.S.-CYPRUS POLICY WHICH APPEARED IN TWO LOCAL NEWS-
PAPERS. SUMMARY OF REPORT FOLLOWS.

2. GHALANOS WAS TROUBLED BY A DECREASE OF ACTIVITY AND LACK
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OF COORDINATION AMONG GREEK AMERICANS IN SUPPORTING GREEK CYPRIOT
POLICY IN THE U.S. HE BELIEVES THIS SITUATION OBTAINS BECAUSE
(A) MANY GREEK AMERICANS BELIEVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HAS BEEN
SOLVED BECAUSE OF THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER; (B) MAKARIOS'
DEATH AND INTERNAL POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN CYPRUS HAVE CAUSED
AN ADDITIONAL LACK OF INTEREST; (C) THERE IS LITTLE COORDINATION
AMONG VARIOUS GREEK AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS; (D) GOC AND GOG DO

NOT HAVE EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH GREEK AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS; (E) THERE IS A PERCEPTION IN THE U.S. THAT CYPRIOTS DO NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE GREEKS AND THAT THERE ARE POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREECE AND CYPRUS. GHALANOS ALSO NOTES THAT TURKISH PROPAGANDA IN THE U.S. HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED. HE SUGGESTS THAT GOT IS CONDUCTING EXTENSIVE LOBBYING IN CONGRESS IN EFFORT TO LIFT THE MILITARY EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. HE CONCLUDES AND THIS WAS THE PART OF HIS REPORT THAT DREW HEADLINES, THAT "LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IS A MATTER OF TIME."

3. GHALANOS' REPORT STATES THAT THERE ARE FOUR FACTORS WHICH DECIDE AMERICAN POLICY ON CYPRUS; THEY ARE: THE GOVERNMENT (THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE PENTAGON); THE CONGRESS; THE PRESS AND ALL MASS MEDIA; UNIVERSITIES, TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND EDUCATED PEOPLE. WITH REGARD TO THE GOVERNMENT, GHALANOS SAYS THAT "DESPITE THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF CARTER, MONDALE AND VANCE, THERE STILL IS THE OLD GUARD OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE PENTAGON TO CONTINUE THE POLICY OF KISSINGER ON CYPRUS AND IT IS UNFORTUNATELY THOSE WHO STILL CONTROL AMERICAN POLICY." HE CONCEDES THAT THE CONGRESS IS FAVORABLE TO GREEK CYPRIOT POSITIONS, BUT SAYS THAT CONTINUED CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT IS QUESTIONABLE IN VIEW OF PRESSURES FROM THE EXECUTIVE, THE PRESS AND TURKISH PROPAGANDA.

4. GHALANOS CONCLUDES HIS REPORT BY RECOMMENDING THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS "ACT DYNAMICALLY" BY COORDINATING GREEK AMERICAN ACTIVITIES, INFLUENCING THE PRESS, STRENGTHENING GOC EMBASSIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTABLISHING INFORMATION OFFICES, STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE, ETC.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO REFERENCE IN GHALANOS' REPORT TO A U.S. "EFFORT" WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY, NOR IS THERE ANY SUGGESTION THAT U.S. POLICY IS A CHARADE TO GET THE TURKISH DCA APPROVED. IN RECENT MEETINGS WE HAVE HAD WITH GHALANOS, HE HAS EXPRESSED HIS PESSIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF U.S. POLICY. HE COMPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR AND DCM ABOUT THE SPEECH IN UNGA BY MR. KENNEDY EXPLAINING U.S. VOTE ON CYPRUS RESOLUTION. HE REITERATED HIS BELIEVE THAT CORRECT U.S. POLICY WOULD BE STRONG SUPPORT FOR GOC WHICH WOULD LEAD TURKEY TO REALIZE THAT ONLY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH REASONABLE POSITIONS COULD SOLVE CYPRUS PROBLEM. CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NICOSI03134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770447-0936
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7eb20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 284824
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 104116
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHALANOS COMMENTS ON U.S. VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7eb20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009